

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicant:

1. Amends claims 1, 10, 18, and 19 to moot the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraphs, levied in enumerated paragraphs 4 – 10 of the office action.
2. Provide a verified translation of the priority application, thereby under 37 CFR §1.55 and MPEP §201.15 overcoming the prior art rejection under 35 USC §102(e) premised on US Patent 6,486,915 to Bell. Applicant's foreign priority date of October 23, 1998 predates the April 20, 1999 US filing date of the Bell application.
3. Request benefit of foreign priority, noting for the record (and in response to enumerated paragraphs 1 – 3 of the office action) that on July 1, 2003 Applicant submitted to the US Patent Office a certified copy of Applicant's priority document.

B. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the captioned application be passed to issue. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

CANINI

Appl. No. 09/362,995

September 22, 2003

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



H. Warren Burnam, Jr.

Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100